

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A portable communication apparatus comprising:  
a microphone for generating a first analog electric signal ;  
~~a processing device having an input operatively coupled to the microphone;~~  
~~wherein the processing device is adapted to generate a digital output signal from a first electric signal received from the microphone;~~  
a reading device adapted to generate a second analog electric signal from an optical or a magnetic input signal; and  
a switching device having a first input coupled to the microphone, a second input coupled to the reading device, and a control input for receiving a control signal for selecting whether the first or the second analog electric signal is to be forwarded to a processing device;  
wherein the processing device has an input coupled to an output of the switching device for receiving either the first or the second analog electric signal; and  
~~wherein the processing device is operatively coupled to the reading device such that the second electric signal from the reading device may be received at the input of the processing device~~ adapted to process the first and second analog electric signals through a single signal path.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the reading device comprises an optical emitter and an optical receiver for reading information stored in a barcode .

4. (Currently Amended ) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the reading device comprises a magnetic sensor for reading information stored in a magnetic strip on a card.

5. (Currently Amended) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the processing device comprises:  
an amplifier adapted to amplify the first and second analog electric signals;  
an A/D converter adapted to convert the first and the second analog electric signal to a first and a second digital electric signal; and,  
and a digital signal processor.

6. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a radio telephone.

7. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the reading device is integrated inside an apparatus housing of the portable communication apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the reading device is located outside an apparatus housing of the portable communication apparatus and is connected through an accessory connector provided in the apparatus housing.

9. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 4, wherein the magnetic sensor comprises a coil.

10. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 6, wherein the radiotelephone comprises a mobile telephone.

11. (Currently Amended) A portable communication apparatus comprising:  
a microphone for generating a first analog electric signal;  
~~a processing device having an input operatively coupled to the microphone for receiving a first electrical signal from the microphone;~~  
a reading device adapted to generate a second analog electric signal from an optical or a magnetic input signal; and  
a switching device having a first input coupled to the microphone, a second input coupled to the reading device, and a processing device having an input coupled to an output of the switching device for receiving either the first or the second analog electric signal; and  
wherein the processing device is adapted to process the first and second analog electric signals through a single signal path.  
~~wherein the processing device is operatively coupled to the reading device such that the second electric signal from the reading device may be received at the input of the processing device.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A portable communication apparatus comprising:  
a microphone for generating a first analog electric signal;  
~~a processing device having an input operatively coupled to the microphone for receiving a first electrical signal from the microphone;~~  
a reading device adapted to generate a second analog electric signal from an optical or a magnetic input signal; and  
a switching device having a first input coupled to the microphone, a second input coupled to the reading device, ~~an output coupled to the processing device,~~ and a control input for receiving a control signal for selecting whether the first or the second analog electric signal is to be forwarded to a the processing device; and-  
wherein an output of the switching device is coupled to an input of the processing device for receiving either the first or the second analog electric signal based on the control signal.

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13. (New) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 12, wherein the processing device is adapted to process the first and second analog electric signals through a single signal path.

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